

In the Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A hold down clip for a cutter bar having a support bar to which a knife guard is mounted, a reciprocating sickle bar having knives is slidably mounted on the knife guard, the hold down clip comprising:

an integral [sheet metal] frame having a first leg and a second leg that are separated from one another by a distance, the first leg having an offset web portion and forming a mounting assembly for mounting the hold down clip to the support bar and the second leg forming a hold down assembly contacting the knives of the reciprocating sickle bar, the hold down assembly having an enlarged wear plate for contacting and holding the reciprocating sickle bar against the knife guard;

an adjustment assembly extends between the offset web portion of the first leg and second [legs] leg for adjusting the distance between the first and second legs.

Claim 2. (Original) The hold down clip as defined by claim 1 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a nut and bolt.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The hold down clip as defined by claim 2 wherein [a raised web portion for receiving the bolt is located on the first leg,] the bolt [extending] extends through the [raised] offset web portion across the distance and through the second leg.

Claim 4. (Original) The hold down clip as defined by claim 3 wherein the knives have a rear portion and the raised web portion has a forwardly projecting tang for receiving the rear portion of the knives.

Claim 5. (Original) The hold down clip as defined by claim 4 wherein the first leg is provided with a guide surface that contacts and guides the reciprocating sickle bar.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A hold down clip for a cutter bar having a support bar to which a knife guard is mounted, a reciprocating sickle bar having knives is slidably mounted on the knife guard, the hold down clip comprising:

an integral [sheet metal] frame having a first leg and a second leg that are

separated from one another by a distance, the first leg having an offset web portion and forming a mounting assembly for mounting the hold down clip to the support bar and the second leg forming a hold down assembly contacting the knives of the reciprocating sickle bar, the first leg is provided with a guide surface that contacts and guides the reciprocating sickle bar;

an adjustment assembly extends between the offset web portion of the first leg and second [legs] leg for adjusting the distance between the first and second legs.

Claim 7. (Original) The hold down clip as defined by claim 6 wherein the hold down assembly having a wear plate for contacting and holding the reciprocating sickle bar against the knife guard.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A cutter bar for a mower, the cutter bar comprising:

a transversely extending support bar;

a knife guard is mounted to the support bar having longitudinally extending fingers;

a transversely extending reciprocating sickle bar is slidably mounted on the knife guard;

knives are mounted to the reciprocating sickle bar;

a hold down clip is mounted to the support bar, the hold down clip comprises a sheet metal frame having a first leg having an offset web portion and a longitudinally extending second leg that are separated from one another by a distance, the first leg forming a mounting assembly for mounting the hold down clip to the support bar and the second leg forming a hold down assembly, the hold down assembly having an enlarged wear plate for contacting and holding the reciprocating sickle bar against the knife guard, the second leg is provided with a longitudinally extending reinforcing rib.

Claim 9. (Original) The cutter bar as defined by claim 8 wherein the first leg is provided with a transversely extending guide surface for contacting and guiding the reciprocating sickle bar.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The cutter bar as defined by claim 9 wherein an

adjustment assembly extends between the first offset web portion of the first leg and second [legs] leg for adjusting the distance between the first and second legs.

Claim 11. (Original) The cutter bar as defined by claim 10 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a nut and bolt.

Claim 12. (Original) The cutter bar as defined by claim 11 wherein [a raised] the offset web portion for receiving the bolt is located on the first leg, the bolt extending through the raised web portion across the distance and through the second leg.

Claim 13. (Original) The cutter bar as defined by claim 12 wherein the knives have a rear portion and the raised web portion has a forwardly projecting tang for receiving the rear portion of the knives.